

Testimony by Maria Dominici

My name is Maria Dominici and I reside in Weston, CT. My daughter, Jaya Dominici, is autistic and eight years old. Prior to her admittance to CCCD in Milford, CT, she attended the Weston Public School System.

Jaya's Behavior Analyst was Stacy Lore, while Jaya was still in the Weston Public School system. Stacy worked with my daughter for 18 months, from age 3 1/2 to 5 years. I believe Ms. Lore worked with my daughter longer than any other child in the state of CT. I believe my daughter was also the first child in CT that Ms. Lore worked with.

As everyone is aware, Ms. Stacy Lore is NOT a licensed, certified BCBA. She lied about all of her certifications. She was NEVER qualified to work with my daughter or any child on the spectrum or otherwise. I will never be certain of the progress my daughter could have made had she been under the care and supervision of a certified BCBA.

Ms. Lore had my daughter sit in a Rifkin chair, each day at school, unable to move so she (Ms. Lore) could "attend" to her. Ms. Lore, clearly did not know how to teach my daughter without that barbaric chair. My daughter is non-verbal and was unable to tell me that her "teacher" was holding her hostage in a chair that she was strapped to. To this date, my daughter is still non-verbal and I may never know what that felt like for her.

It's imperative and absolutely necessary that the BCBA's that work with our disabled children are qualified to do so. This is not a negotiable issue. They MUST be qualified just as a physician MUST be qualified to perform surgery. Parents of these special children will not tolerate anything less!!

With regard to full house bill 5424. I support section 2 and OPPOSE section 3.

Many thanks for your time.

Most Sincerely,

Maria Dominici
Weston, CT